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3 Session, 20 Legislature

REPORT OF THE
SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES



TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
MARCH 3, 1984 TO MARCH 13, 1985

I. MEMBERS OF THE SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
OFFICES

Dr. C. Robert Elliott
Chairman
Grande Prairie

Dr. David J. Carter
Deputy Chairman
Calgary-Egmont

Mr. Dennis Anderson
Calgary-Currie

Dr. Walter A. Buck
Clover Bar

Mr. Al Hiebert
Edmonton-Gold Bar

Mr. James E. (Bud) Miller
Lloydminster

Mr. William F. Purdy
Stony Plain

Mr. John M. Thompson
Cardston

Mr. W. Grant Notley (to October 19, 1984)
Spirit River-Fairview

II. MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS PRESENT</u>
May 3, 1984	Auditor General
May 8, 1984	
May 29, 1984	
June 4, 1984	
October 30, 1984	
November 14, 1984	Ombudsman Chief Electoral Officer
November 21, 1984	Auditor General
December 17, 1984	
January 21, 1985	Chief Electoral Officer
January 28, 1985	Auditor General
March 4, 1985	Ombudsman

This Committee does not meet on a regularly scheduled basis. Rather, it meets as often as necessary to accomplish the tasks which it has to perform.

III. ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices was created in 1978 to facilitate contact between the elected members and the three legislative officers: the Auditor General, the Ombudsman and the Chief Electoral Officer. The Committee is composed of representatives of all political parties that hold seats in the Assembly. It is the purpose of this Committee to enable the Legislature to ensure that its officers are accountable to it while still maintaining and being seen to maintain independence from the government. The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices is designated in the relevant Acts as the link between the Assembly and the officers and is unique within the Canadian parliamentary system. During the course of the 1984-85 session, the Committee gave significant attention to exploring the character of its relationship with the three officers, recognizing the need for accountability and increased contact while still safeguarding the independence and impartiality that enable the officers to do their jobs so well.

The 1984-85 session saw the retirement of the Ombudsman, Dr. Randall Ivany, and the installation of his replacement, Mr. Brian Sawyer. Dr. Ivany had served the province for 10 years and is a founding director of the International Ombudsman Institute. His retirement was marked by a farewell reception on September 5, 1984. Mr. Brian Sawyer comes to the Office of the Ombudsman from the position of

Chief of the City of Calgary Police Force. He was chosen by the Ombudsman Search and Selection Committee and was welcomed to his new post by an installation ceremony held at the Legislature on August 28, 1984.

The term of the present Auditor General, Mr. D.W. Rogers, F.C.A., ends on the last day of March 1986 and therefore the funding for finding his replacement is in the 1985-86 budget.

In January 1985, the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Kenneth A. Wark, submitted his resignation, effective July 31, 1985.

A major focus of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices over the past year has been to increase the contact between the officers - the Auditor General, the Ombudsman, and the Chief Electoral Officer - and Committee members, as well as other members of the Legislative Assembly. To this end, two initiatives were undertaken during the 1984-85 session. The first is a goal of meeting with each officer in his own location at least once during the course of each year, to enable Committee members to be better informed about the work and staffing of the three offices. In the past year, the Committee was able to visit the Offices of the Auditor General, the Ombudsman and the Chief Electoral Officer, in addition to meeting with all three officers in the Legislature Building.

The other initiative was to hold an annual reception for the three officers and all the MLAs. It was recognized that several members had not had any contact with any of the officers and that this situation was deemed worthy of rectification. The first annual reception was held on October 31, 1984.

Travel by Committee members with Legislative Officers was continued. The following is a list of out-of-province travel by Committee members on Committee business during the past year:

<u>MEMBER(S)</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Dr. Carter Mr. Notley Mr. Miller	Ombudsman	International Ombudsman Institute Conference & Seminar - Stockholm/ Helsinki	June 24- July 1 '84
Dr. Elliott	Auditor General	Conference of Legisla- tive Auditors - Charlottetown	July 9- 11 '84
Mr. Hiebert	Chief Electoral Officer	Council on Governmental Ethics Laws - Seattle	December 2-5 '84
Mr. Miller Dr. Carter	Auditor General	Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation - Ottawa (Speech given - expenses paid by the Foundation)	December 2-4 '84

It is expected that such travel will continue to be a part of the Committee's work, as all involved noted that it was a valuable opportunity to become more familiar with the issues of importance to each office and to observe the manner in which these offices are fulfilled elsewhere.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices also devoted some time to exploring the need for greater consistency in the reporting mechanisms and budget dates for the three legislative officers. It was generally felt that this is a goal worthy of striving for in the long term.

The Committee was saddened by the death of one of its members, Grant Notley, on October 19, 1984. Mr. Notley contributed greatly to the work of the Committee and will be missed.

IV. BUDGETS

One of the major responsibilities of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices is to review the budgets of the three legislative officers and to develop a budget for its own activities. These budgets are presented in summary form below:

LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS

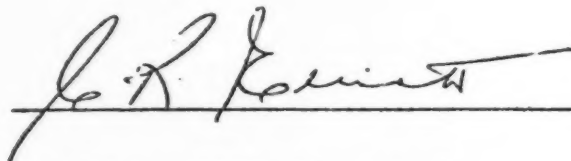
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Salary Effective Date</u>	<u>Office Estimate '85-86</u>
Auditor General	Jan. 1 '83	\$9,614,448
Ombudsman	Sept. 1 '84	\$ 879,125
Chief Electoral Officer	Apr. 1 '83	\$4,307,327*

*This figure represents a significant increase over 1984-85 to include a complete enumeration of the province in 1985-86.

**SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES -
ESTIMATES 1985-86**

Wages	\$ 500
Travel (Meetings and Out-of-Province Conferences)	\$13,054
Audit of the Office of the Auditor General	\$11,000
Hospitality	\$ 1,360
Payment to Committee Members	\$10,800
Committee to Appoint Auditor General	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total **	\$86,714

**This budget was prepared prior to the resignation of the Chief Electoral Officer and does not include funds for the search and selection process for his replacement.



C. Robert Elliott, M.L.A.
Chairman